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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Project Safe Neighborhoods:**

**STRATFORD MAN INDICTED ON FEDERAL FIREARMS AND  
AMMUNITION CHARGES**

Kevin J. O'Connor, United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, today announced that TYRONE HILL, age 46, formerly of 42 McPadden Drive, Stratford, Connecticut, has been charged by a federal grand jury in Bridgeport in a four-count Indictment with one count of knowing possession of a firearm and ammunition by a previously convicted felon; one count of knowing possession of ammunition by a previously convicted felon; one count of knowing possession of an unregistered sawed-off shotgun; and one count of possession of body armor by a violent felon. The Indictment was returned yesterday, March 17.

On August 2, 2004, HILL was arrested on a state arrest warrant charging him with, among other things, assault in the first degree, relating to a shooting that took place in front of *Pettway's Variety Store* at the corner of Stratford Avenue and Fifth Street in Bridgeport on July 10, 2004. When Bridgeport and Stratford police officers arrested HILL at his residence, they recovered a sawed-off shotgun; four .410 caliber shotgun shells; seven PMC .45 caliber bullets; and a bulletproof vest.

HILL, like all defendants arrested on gun charges in Bridgeport, was prosecuted under the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative and given several opportunities to resolve the case in state court to avoid a federal indictment. He rejected those opportunities.

The Indictment alleges that, on August 2, 2004, HILL knowingly possessed an Ithaca, Model 66, .410 gauge sawed-off shotgun, four .410 gauge Remington shotgun

shells and seven rounds of .45 caliber Colt ammunition manufactured by the *Precision Manufactured Cartridge Company*. The Indictment further alleges that HILL was previously convicted in Connecticut for a felony charge of possession of narcotics with intent to sell, and was previously convicted in Georgia for two felony counts of aggravated assault. It is a violation of federal law for a convicted felon to possess a firearm and/or ammunition that moved in interstate or foreign commerce.

The Indictment further alleges that on August 2, 2004, HILL knowingly possessed an unregistered sawed-off shotgun. It is a violation of federal law to receive or possess a sawed-off shotgun which, as modified, has an overall length of less than 26 inches and a barrel of less than 18 inches in length, and is not registered to the possessor in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record.

The Indictment further alleges that on August 2, 2004, HILL knowingly possessed body armor, namely a bulletproof vest. It is a violation of federal law for a person to purchase, own or possess body armor if that person has been previously convicted of a felony crime of violence.

“This Office is committed to supporting the Bridgeport States Attorney’s Office by seeking indictments against those defendants who have been given the opportunity, and are unwilling, to resolve their cases in state court,” U.S. Attorney O’Connor stated. “The two most profound differences between the state and federal system, in relation to gun cases, are that federal inmates are never eligible for parole because the federal system has abolished parole, and that federal inmates must serve their sentences far from Connecticut because there are no federal prisons for men in Connecticut.”

U.S. Attorney O’Connor stressed that an indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is entitled to a fair trial at which it is the Government’s burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case was investigated by the ATF Task Force and the Bridgeport Police Department and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Stephen Reynolds.

The Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative is aimed at reducing gun violence, deterring illegal possession of guns, ammunition and body armor, and improving the safety of residents in Bridgeport and all of Connecticut’s cities. Participants in the initiative include community members and organizations as well as federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. More information on the nationwide Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative can be found at [www.psn.gov](http://www.psn.gov) <<http://www.psn.gov>>.

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